

AMENDMENTSIN THE CLAIMS:

el Please cancel Claims 1-~~14~~²¹ and replace them with the following new claims:


NEW CLAIMS:

Al 25.(New) A woven fabric having a top surface and a bottom surface, said fabric comprising fill and warp yarns selected from the group consisting of polyester, cotton, and blends thereof; wherein both said fill yarns collectively exhibit a fill tensile strength within said fabric; wherein both said fill and warp yarns of at least one of said top and bottom surface are mechanically treated in order to impart nicked appearances within the surface fibers within said at least one mechanically treated surface of said fabric; wherein said at least one mechanically treated surface of said fabric exhibits a softer hand than a non-mechanically treated surface of the same woven fabric; wherein said fill tensile strength of said woven, mechanically treated fabric is measured to be an amount of at least 80% of the fill tensile strength of the same fabric measured prior to mechanical treatment.

26.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 25 wherein said fill tensile strength of said woven, mechanically treated fabric is measured to be an amount of at least 85% of the fill tensile strength of the same fabric measured prior to mechanical treatment.

27.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 26 wherein said fill tensile strength of said woven, mechanically treated fabric is measured to be an amount of at least 90% of the fill tensile strength of the same fabric measured prior to mechanical treatment.

28.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 27 wherein said fill tensile strength of said woven, mechanically treated fabric is measured to be an amount of at least 93% of the fill tensile strength of the same fabric measured prior to mechanical treatment.

 29.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 25 wherein said fill and warp yarns are comprised of a blend of polyester and cotton fibers.

30.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 29 wherein said blend of fibers is about 65% polyester and 35% cotton.

31.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 30 wherein said woven fabric is warp-faced.

32.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 31 wherein said warp-faced woven fabric is a twill.

33.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 26 wherein said fill and warp yarns are comprised of a blend of polyester and cotton fibers.

34.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 33 wherein said blend of fibers is about 65% polyester and 35% cotton.

35.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 34 wherein said woven fabric is warp-faced.

36.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 35 wherein said warp-faced woven fabric is a twill.

37.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 27 wherein said fill and warp yarns are comprised of a blend of polyester and cotton fibers.

38.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 37 wherein said blend of fibers is about 65% polyester and 35% cotton.

39.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 38 wherein said woven fabric is warp-faced.

40.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 39 wherein said warp-faced woven fabric is a twill.

41.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 28 wherein said fill and warp yarns are comprised of a blend of polyester and cotton fibers.

42.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 41 wherein said blend of fibers is about 65% polyester and 35% cotton.

43.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 42 wherein said woven fabric is warp-faced.

44.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 43 wherein said warp-faced woven fabric is a twill.

45.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 25 wherein said fabric exhibits a lower degree of pilling at said at least one mechanically treated surface than a surface of a comparative woven fabric of the same yarn composition and weave construction that has been mechanically treated but does not exhibit a nicked appearance.

46.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 26 wherein said fabric exhibits a lower degree of pilling at said at least one mechanically treated surface than a surface of a comparative woven fabric of the same yarn composition and weave construction that has been mechanically treated but does not exhibit a nicked appearance.

47.(New) The woven fabric of Claim 27 wherein said fabric exhibits a lower degree of pilling at said at least one mechanically treated surface than a surface of a comparative woven fabric of the same yarn composition and weave construction that has been mechanically treated but does not exhibit a nicked appearance.